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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/731,359

12/09/2003

Anthony Parrish

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07/28/2004

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EXAMINER

BOYER, CHARLES I

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1751

DATE MAILED: 07/28/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/731,359

Applicant(s)

PARRISH ET AL.

Examiner

Charles I Boyer

Art Unit

1751

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 December 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 7/25/04.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. Claims 11 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential elements, such omission amounting to a gap between the elements. See MPEP § 2172.01. The omitted elements are: The claims at hand, refer to retaining the pulp in a "vessel," however, applicants' specification makes no mention of a vessel, but rather a bleaching tower. A vessel is a broad term that could refer to virtually anything, whereas a bleaching tower is an art-recognized apparatus. The claims should be amended to properly refer to a bleaching tower.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 10, and 16-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Vincent et al, US 6,056,853.

Vincent et al teach a process for bleaching wood pulps using a hydrogen peroxide/magnesium oxide slurry (see abstract). Note that the hydrogen peroxide and magnesium oxide may be added simultaneously to the pulp or MgO may be added prior to the hydrogen peroxide (col. 6, claims 7 and 8). The examiner interprets the latter scenario as referring to a two-stage process. As

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this reference meets all material limitations of the claims at hand, the reference is anticipatory.

3. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 10, and 16-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kruger et al, US 4,626,319.

Kruger et al teach a multi-stage process for bleaching wood pulps using a hydrogen peroxide/magnesium oxide slurry (see abstract). Note that the hydrogen peroxide and magnesium oxide may be added simultaneously to the pulp or MgO may be added prior to the hydrogen peroxide (col. 5, claims 7 and 8). Irregardless, note that the bleaching process of Kruger et al requires at least two refining steps. Also note that additional bleaching steps, presumably performed in a bleaching tower as is well known in the art, may be performed on the pulp (col. 5, example 1). As this reference meets all material limitations of the claims at hand, the reference is anticipatory.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kruger et al, US 4,626,319 alone or in view of Prough et al, US 4,731,160.

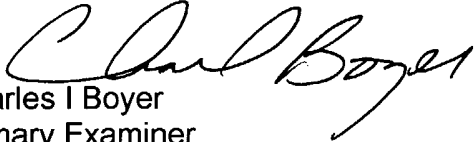
Kruger et al are relied upon as set forth above. Kruger et al do not specifically teach an intermediate bleaching step in a bleaching tower, however, as Kruger et al teach additional bleaching steps, albeit not in the same order claimed, and bleaching towers are standard apparatuses well known in the art, the examiner maintains that such an intermediate bleaching step does not represent an unobvious processing step to one of ordinary skill in the art.

In the alternative, Prough et al teach a pulp bleaching process where the pulp is processed in a primary refiner, then undergoes an intermediate bleaching step, then is sent to a secondary refiner for additional processing (col. 5, claims 1-5). Accordingly, Prough et al support the examiner's assertion that such an intermediate bleaching step is well known in the art, and therefore an obvious modification in the invention of Kruger et al.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Charles I Boyer whose telephone number is 571 272 1311. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:30 to 6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Yogendra Gupta can be reached on 571 272 1316. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Charles I Boyer
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1751